

**SEMINARY HILL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**Regular Monthly Board Meeting  
Thursday, December 13, 2007**

**Meeting Minutes**

**The following Board Members were present:**

Joanne Lepanto, President  
Don Fullerton, Vice President  
Jack Sullivan, Treasurer  
Susan Ross-O'Brien, Secretary

**Area Representatives:**

1 – Lillian Patterson  
3 – Dick Hobson  
4 – Beth Aronson  
5 - Dick Hayes  
6 - Nancy Jennings  
7 – Pat Lidy  
9 – Bruce McCarthy

At-Large: Joe Fischer

Episcopal High School: Laura Vetter

President, Joanne Lepanto, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**Minutes:** Some changes were recommended and will be incorporated. The 8 November Minutes approved as amended.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Jack Sullivan reported a balance of \$26, 241. as of the end of November. Three deposits were made for a grand total of \$1981.00. Dues are \$20. per member. A recommendation was made to send out letters to past members who had not yet renewed. Regular dues paying membership is currently 104. Membership could grow to approximately 200 after receiving a letter.

**Announcements:**

- Carter Fleming, new Area 2 representative, was at the Braddock Metro Neighborhood meeting tonight (on behalf of ARHA).
- Heather Zdancwicz is the new Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) representative.
- Roster for the website was circulated. A new list of board members to be provided at next meeting
- SHA's annual report to the State Corporation Commission will be filed soon.
- Joanne Lepanto and Jack Sullivan have been appointed by the Mayor to serve as members of the Landmark/Van Dorn Advisory Group.

- Joanne Lepanto replaces Kathy Burns as the Civic Association Liaison on the board of WEBA (West End Business Association). Joanne is also Vice Chair of the Federation of Civic Associations.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- SHA meetings will continue on the second Thursday through June. Easter schedule is TBD.
- WEBA - next meeting will held on 16 January from 5:30 to 8:30 PM in the student commons quiet dining room at T.C. Williams high school. Rich Baier will be the speaker. A tour of T.C. will be given.
- Treasurer Jack Sullivan to testify before City Council on Saturday 15 December in support of the Economic Sustainability recommendations
- Attendance at the “Infill Task Force” meetings is to be encouraged. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17 January from 7-9 PM at City Hall, Room 2000.
- Landmark Advisory Meeting Monday 17 December from 6 – 9 PM at Tucker Elementary School

**Area Reports of Representatives present:**

1 – Lillian Patterson reported that the old TC Williams school was being torn down

5 – Dick Hayes reported a lot of noise in the INOVA hospital area.

7 – Pat Lidy reported on Burke Library receiving new trashcans but interim painting through June is still needed. Developer at Polk Ave is doing the Encore apartments.

9 – Bruce McCarthy reported that Dave Cavanaugh is working on improving traffic congestion at the St. Stephens and St Agnes School during the pick up and drop off hours.

EHS- Laura Vetter call the Brian Library at 703-933-4011 to learn more about the History of Episcopal High School.

**Police Report:** Capt. Hassan Aden reported a large amount of thefts from cars, GPS’s in particular and recommended removing items from view and locking cars. Gang-related graffiti was removed from the Bradlee Shopping Center area. To report a problem call:

- Police Non- Emergency -703-838-4444
- My City Hotline-703-519-8355. Leave a message detailing the problem, location, and contact information.

A Work Release Program plus community service such as removing trash and beautification will be done at Fort Ward and the Libraries. A Police scheduling conflict is preventing the traffic surveillance of speeding on Seminary Road at the times that most serious offenses occur. Hassan gave the Crimes Database Statistics report and requested that it be posted to the city’s new website. (will email to Joanne). Friday at 10:00PM a Quality of Life meeting with Paul Smedburg will discuss Online Crime data. PDF’s, portable document files on Identity Theft are available on the city website at <http://www.alexandriava.gov>.

**Election-At-Large Board Members:**

Dick Hobson nominated Joe Fischer and Margaret Goodman as At-Large Board Members; the Board elected both.

### **Guest Speaker: Mayor Bill Euille**

The Mayor spoke on and responded to questions covering the following topics; the cities Economic status, impact of the BRAC, Base Realignment and Consolidation, the West End Landmark/Van Dorn development, the Transportation Task Force recommendations for Duke Street, the proposed All Sports Facility and the Immigration Policy. The Mayor thanked the association for their questions and requested more collaborative teamwork to improve sources. Topics covered:

*Economic Status:* Things are going very well. There are still lots of economic developments, however, things will get tighter in future. The foreclosure rate has risen slightly. Will need a paradigm change to attract new businesses. Alexandria is well ahead of the curve.

*West End:* Nothing has happened with Landmark/Van Dorn for 2 years now but the “Urban Village” concept will happen. Macy’s is committed for a new store. Goal is to have walking accessibility to Mall.

*Impact of BRAC:* 7,200 to 8,000 jobs to be lost. The Mayor formed a BRAC Impact Workgroup. Bottom line the Army Material Command on Eisenhower Ave is vacant. Ownership is contentious. The Pentagon wants to move in – 6200 could be relocated to Eisenhower. No tax incentives, off tax roles.

*Land Use/Transportation Task Force for Duke Street:* How to ease congestion? BRT or Bus Rapid Transportation is recommended. Workgroup will review in February. A bus lane would be created.

*All Sports Facility:* Is it still needed? Yes. Needs \$5-6 million in private funding to start and would seat 3,000.

*Immigration Policy:* Meeting to be planned soon with local, state and federal officials. Human Rights Commission to discuss Best Practices of other jurisdictions.

### **Review of Annual Meeting Recommendations:**

- Consider moving up the date to avoid conflicts, bad weather
- Select the Speaker earlier and announce in the local paper
- Provide more outreach to younger families
- Distribute a map of the Seminary Hill area at the annual meeting
- Use nametags with Area # on the nametag

### ***Old Business:***

- 4555 Seminary Road – more comments from neighbors re: construction vehicles, other trucks and activities; will continue to monitor
- Landmark/Van Dorn – no news other than upcoming Advisory Group meeting
- 508 Quaker Lane (“Goodman property”) – *New plan to be discussed*
- Daycare and child care homes – *Hours of Operation and ingress/egress are concerns raised regarding recent applications elsewhere in the City*
- Transportation: Task Force Report/Recommendations – *Requested that George Foote be invited as a guest speaker to discuss topic of shutting down traffic lanes for the BRT, Bus Rapid Transit, and potential impact on Seminary Rd. traffic volumes, and neighborhood cut-*

*through traffic. Creating a citywide initiative and Task Force headed by vice Mayor Del Pepper was suggested.*

- *Historical project: “wiki” – Nancy Jennings explained the wiki. It was decided not to use this feature at this time. Atilla priced an interactive “wiki” of the Historical project at approximately \$340.00. For now, Historical project information will be posted on SHA website; wiki may be reconsidered at later date.*
- *Seminary Road Speeding – A scheduling conflict currently exist with Police for covering Seminary road during the times identified by the Association as when most violations occur.*
- *5325 Polk Avenue – Bonaventure and its attorney have offered to speak to SHA regarding Applicant’s recent proposal to the City that the property be considered for purchase by the City as Open Space. They will be invited to next SHA meeting.*
- *Temple Beth El: new Friends high school – Joanne reported no news from the City*

***New Business:***

Jack Sullivan described plans to build Hunting Terrace, a proposed (14 story) building, near the site of Porto Vecchio (8 stories). These plans are not in accordance with rules for Washington St. Townsend Van Fleet will represent Old Town at the Planning Commission in February.

President Lepanto adjourned the meeting at 10:15 P.M.

Susan Ross-O’Brien  
Recording Secretary